

School Size and Enrollment 2006-2007				
School Size	# of Schools	Percent of Schools	Enrollment	Percent of Enrollment
>500	49	6%	44,147	31%
250 to 499	161	19%	56,231	39%
100 to 249	169	20%	27,474	19%
50 to 99	132	16%	9,405	7%
<50	320	38%	7,161	5%
	831	100%	144,418	100%

Poverty Indicators			
Poverty Indicators	MT	National	Rank
Age 5-17 in families in poverty*15.60%		16.20%	30th
Percent Eligible for Free/Reduced Priced Lunch** 33.70%		N/A	23rd


*US Census Bureau 2004
**Common Core of Data, 2004-05 School Year

Public School Districts	2006-2007
K-12 districts	51
Combined elementary (joint board)	104
Combined high school (joint board)	104
Single districts (161 el, 5 hs)	166
State funded districts	2
Nonoperating and annexed districts	6
Total School Districts	433
School Data	2006-2007
Elementary Schools	444
Middle, 7 & 8, Junior High Schools	217
High School	170
Total Schools	831

Nonpublic School Enrollment (self reported)				
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	% of Total Enrollment
Private	8,164	8,064	8,490	5.4%
Home School	3,971	3,987	4,093	2.6%
Total	12,135	12,051	12,583	8.0%

Dear Friends:

I am proud of Montana’s education system and honored to be leading efforts to build a bright future for our students. We have remarkable resources and talent in our communities, schools, and families. Our excellent public education system is built on educators, students, parents, businesses, and community members working together to invest in Montana’s future. If after reading “Facts About Montana Education,” you would like to learn more about K-12 education in Montana, I invite you to visit our website at www.opi.mt.gov.


Linda McCulloch,
State Superintendent

About the Big Sky State

- Population: 902,195 (2000 Census); 944,632 (2006 Estimate)
- Size: 147,046 square miles (fourth largest state)
- Population density: 6.2 per square mile (2000 Census)
- State racial makeup: White 90.6%, American Indian 6.2%, Hispanic 2%, Asian .6%, Black .3%, other .6% (2000 Census)
- School racial makeup: White 83.9%, American Indian 11.4%, Hispanic 2.5%, Asian 1.0%, Black 1.0%, Pacific Islander .2%
- 570 miles long, 315 miles wide
- Elevation range: 1,820 to 12,799 feet above sea level
- Borders three Canadian provinces and four states
- Headwaters for two major rivers – Missouri and Columbia
- Seven Indian Reservations and 12 Tribal Nations including one landless tribe, the Little Shell Chippewa
- Primary industries: agriculture, services, government (including education) and retail trade

For more information about Montana, contact:
◦ www.discoveringmontana.com Travel Montana (406) 841-2870
◦ <http://ceic.commerce.mt.gov> The Census & Economic Information Center (406) 841-2740

For more school data
◦ www.opi.mt.gov/measurement
◦ www.opi.mt.gov/reportcard

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FACTS ABOUT MONTANA EDUCATION



Linda McCulloch Kindergarten Class Photograph

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July, 2007



Montana Public School Enrollment

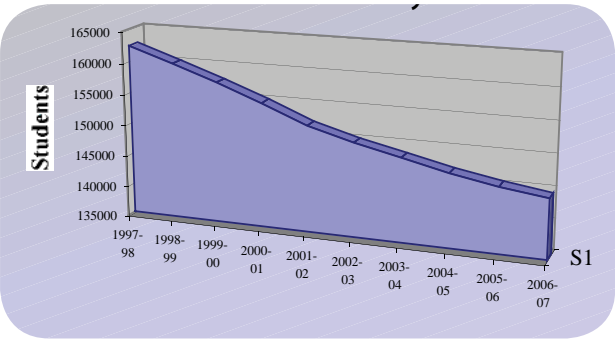
	2005-06	2006-07	% Change 2006 to 2007
Elementary			
Prekindergarten	793	787	
Kindergarten	10,299	10,409	
Grades 1-6	63,175	63,134	
Grades 7-8	23,277	22,527	
Ungraded	68	50	
Total Elementary	97,612	96,907	-0.7%
High School			
Grades 9-12	47,438	47,211	
Ungraded	209	140	
Total High School	47,647	47,351	-0.6%

State-Funded Schools*			
Elementary			
(PreK-8)	31	31	
High School (9-12)	126	129	
Total State-Funded			
Schools	157	160	1.9%

Total Public School			
Enrollment	145,416	144,418	-0.7%

* The state-funded schools are Pine Hills School, Riverside School, and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

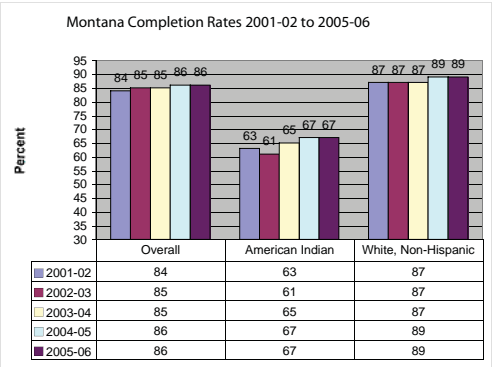
Ten Year Enrollment History



Montana enrollment peaked in the 1995-1996 school year. Since then, enrollment has decreased by over 20,000 students. The enrollment decrease is due to the decrease in Montana live births. In 2002, Montana had one of the lowest birth rates in the country. The number of live births started to increase in 2000 and is projected to rise in the next ten years. After declining for seven years, kindergarten enrollment began increasing again in 2003-2004 and has increased by 510 students from 2002 - 2003 to

High School Graduates

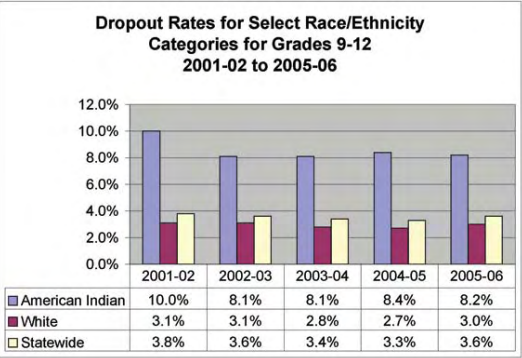
High School Graduates	2006
GED* recipients (ages 16-19)	10,283
*General Education Development	1,198



Overall high school completion rates have been relatively stable over the past three years. The gap between American Indian students and all students combined is 19 percentage points. The gap between white students and American Indian students is approximately 22 percentage points.

Dropout Rates

High school dropout rates have been on the decline for the past four years before increasing this year. Since the 2001-2002 school year dropout rates have decreased 1.8 percentage points for American Indian Students compared to .1 percentage points for white students. The gap between American Indian students and white students continues to be significant. Over the past 5 school years it has narrowed from 6.9 percentage points to 5.2 percentage points.



Licensed K-12 Staff (Full-Time Equivalent)

(Full-Time Equivalent)	2006-07
Teachers- Classroom, Title I, Special Ed.	10,518
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents	147
Principals and Assistant Principals	516
Other Administrative Staff	95
Education Specialists (Library, Guidance Counselors, Etc)	957
Licensed Professional (Non Educator)	353
Total Licensed Staff FTE	12,586
Paraprofessionals	2,014
Total Licensed and Paraprofessional Staff	14,600

Student/Teacher Ratio	2003-04	2004-05
Montana average	14.4	14.3
National average	15.9	15.8

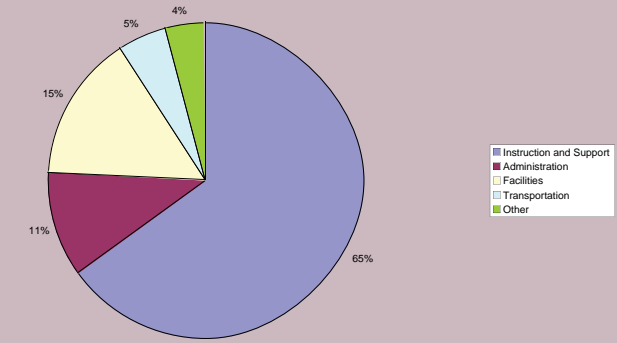
Education Licensure	2006-07
Total number of licensed educators	25,101
99.8% of teachers are licensed in Montana	
99.4% of teachers are licensed and endorsed in their subject area	

Assessment

Test Scores	2004	2005	2006			
MT	Natl.		MT	Natl.	MT	Natl.
SAT*						
verbal	537	508	540	508	538	503
math	539	518	540	520	545	518
ACT**	21.7	20.9	21.8	20.9	21.9	21.1

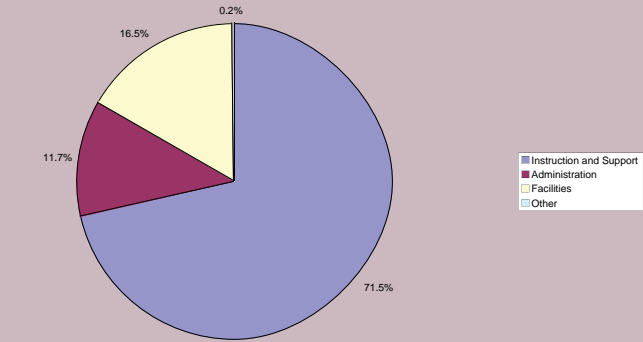
*Scholastic Aptitude Test-- High Score 800. In 2006 28% of Montana graduating seniors took the SAT. Nationally 49% of graduating seniors took the SAT. ** American College Testing Program-- High Score 36. In 2006 57% of Montana graduating seniors took the ACT. Nationally 40% of graduating seniors took the ACT.

Montana Public School Districts Statewide revenues 2005 - 2006



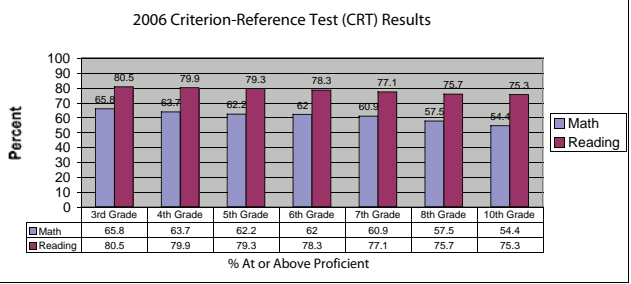
While federal and local shares have increased over the last 10 years, the state share of revenue has dropped by 9 percentage points over the same period.

Montana Public School Districts Statewide Expenditures 2005 - 2006



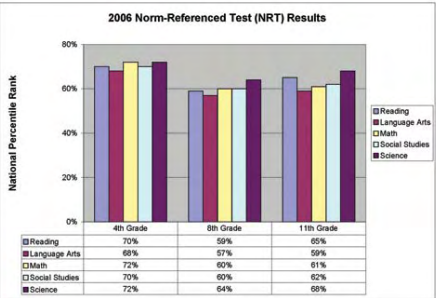
Based on the Standard and Poor's definition which excludes transportation and school foods services.

2006 Criterion-Referenced (CRT) Results



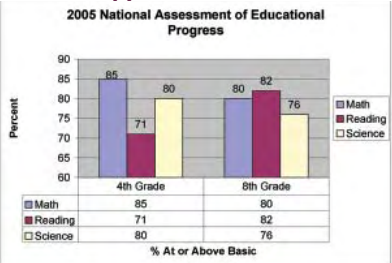
In Spring 2006, Montana students took the CRT test in the 3rd through 8th and 10th grade, measuring progress towards state standards in reading and math. This was the first year for the 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th grades.

2006 Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) Results



The NRT (Iowa tests) measures the National Percentile Rank (NPR). The NPR refers to the percent of students in the national norm group that earned the same score or lower than Montana students.

2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)



The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), referred to as the Nation's Report Card, is a measure of student achievement in the United States.